

(HFAC)

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Ref OLL84-1701

23 April 1984

To: [redacted] STAT
Legislative Liason

Via: [redacted] STAT
Chief, OGI/ISID/NAR

From: [redacted] STAT
OGI/ISID/NAR

Re: Follow-up on Congressional Request Concerning the Media Coverage of "the Syrian Connection"

Several articles do not pertain to narcotics and the Middle East:

- Cuban Radio Misuses Airwaves, 2-3-84
- Moscow Reports Righting a Case of Injustice, 3-24-83
- NATO Officials End Meeting, 3-24-83
- Mitterand Warns of Struggle to Overcome Economic Problems, 3-24-83

Of the six articles dealing with narcotics, there is really nothing that we are able or need to respond to:

- Amid the Lawlessness in Lebanon, Hashish Trade Flourishes, 10-5-81
This fairly general article contains quite dated information. It replays some generally accepted beliefs.
- Bekaa Valley Becomes New Golden Triangle, 9-2-82
This article is also fairly general and dated. It appears that the "intelligence sources" quoted are DEA. The Narcotics Intelligence Estimate is published by DEA for the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee - of which the CIA is an observer.
- Sun No Longer Shines on Bekaa's Hashish Crop, 3-24-83
This article is general and primarily about the military conflict in Lebanon. The information on Syria and narcotics basically corresponds to the other press information.
- Lebanese Hashish Is Invading Israel, 6-14-83
This article merely points out that hashish from the Bekaa Valley is moving into Israel and Israeli arrests are increasing - we assume this is logical.

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- War is Giving a Drug Lift to the Syrian Connection,
2-3-84
We have a DEA report that supports some of the information in this article. We assume the "intelligence sources" are DEA.
- Western Front - Lebanon
This story is not worth responding to. The information matches some of the other information reported in the press, although it is extremely sensationalist.

Enclosed is a current copy of the NNICC Narcotics Intelligence Estimate for your information. The Task Force should be able to secure a copy from DEA if they do not already have one.

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